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Area Wage Survey
Meridian, MS
August 1991

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
September 1991

This summary presents results of an August 1991 survey of occupational wages in the Meridian area, which consists of Lauderdale County. This is 1 of over 110 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys annually or every other year at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 90 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communications, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 42 establishments employing 7,758 workers was selected to represent 62 establishments employing 9,254 workers in the area. Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.)

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Meridian, MS, August 1991

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[3]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	4.25 and under 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 12.50	12.50 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 and over
Accounting clerks	51	7.36	6.80	5.75– 7.65	–	–	6	6	2	10	7	10	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks II	41	7.22	6.75	5.75– 7.65	–	–	4	6	1	10	7	5	–	–	–	–	–	1	4	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators	16	7.21	6.94	6.00– 8.55	–	–	1	–	6	2	2	–	1	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators I	15	7.11	6.94	6.00– 8.29	–	–	1	–	6	2	2	–	1	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries	10	12.40	12.43	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	1	–	1	1	–
Secretaries III	6	12.53	12.30	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	1	–	1	1	–
Switchboard operators	13	5.74	5.25	– –	5	–	3	1	2	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operator-receptionists	11	6.96	7.00	– –	–	–	–	2	2	1	1	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators	10	8.60	7.76	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer programmers	18	12.88	12.26	10.25–14.41	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	–	–	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
General maintenance workers	16	6.93	6.83	5.08– 8.61	–	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance electricians	40	16.32	18.41	12.11–19.50	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Motor vehicle mechanics	18	12.38	11.46	10.00–16.33	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	–	3	2	5	–	4	4	–	–	–	–	'21
Power-truck operators:																											
Forklift operators	45	8.65	7.60	7.22– 9.80	1	–	2	1	1	4	9	6	2	2	5	6	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	–
Receivers	18	8.38	7.25	7.02–10.69	–	–	–	3	–	1	6	–	2	6	2	2	2	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–
Shipping packers	21	8.00	8.55	7.00– 9.12	–	–	3	–	2	–	2	–	2	2	2	2	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers	80	10.19	8.15	7.50–16.28	–	–	–	–	5	6	5	15	12	1	7	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, medium truck	6	9.36	9.90	– –	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	22	–
Warehousemen	10	9.47	9.12	– –	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	4	–	–	1	–	1	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Pay increases—but not bonuses—under cost-of-living allowance clauses and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more than this rate and one-half receive the same as or less than this rate. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate. Middle ranges are not provided when fewer than 15 workers are reported.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

[3] All workers were at 19.00 to 20.00.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Meridian, MS,[1] August 1991

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments		
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[3]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	62	42	9,254	100	7,758
Manufacturing	50	18	14	4,861	53	4,386
Nonmanufacturing[4]	50	44	28	4,393	47	3,372

[1] The Meridian area consists of Lauderdale County. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis for comparison with other statistical series to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The *Standard Industrial Classification Manual* was used in classifying establishments by industry. All government operations are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets (within a metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county) of nonmanufacturing companies are considered as one establishment when located within the same industry division.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation. Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; personal services; business services; automotive repair services and garages; motion pictures; membership organizations (excluding religious organizations); and miscellaneous services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; and some services (notably educational institutions and medical services).

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